



LEGALIZING MARIJUANA

PROS AND CONS







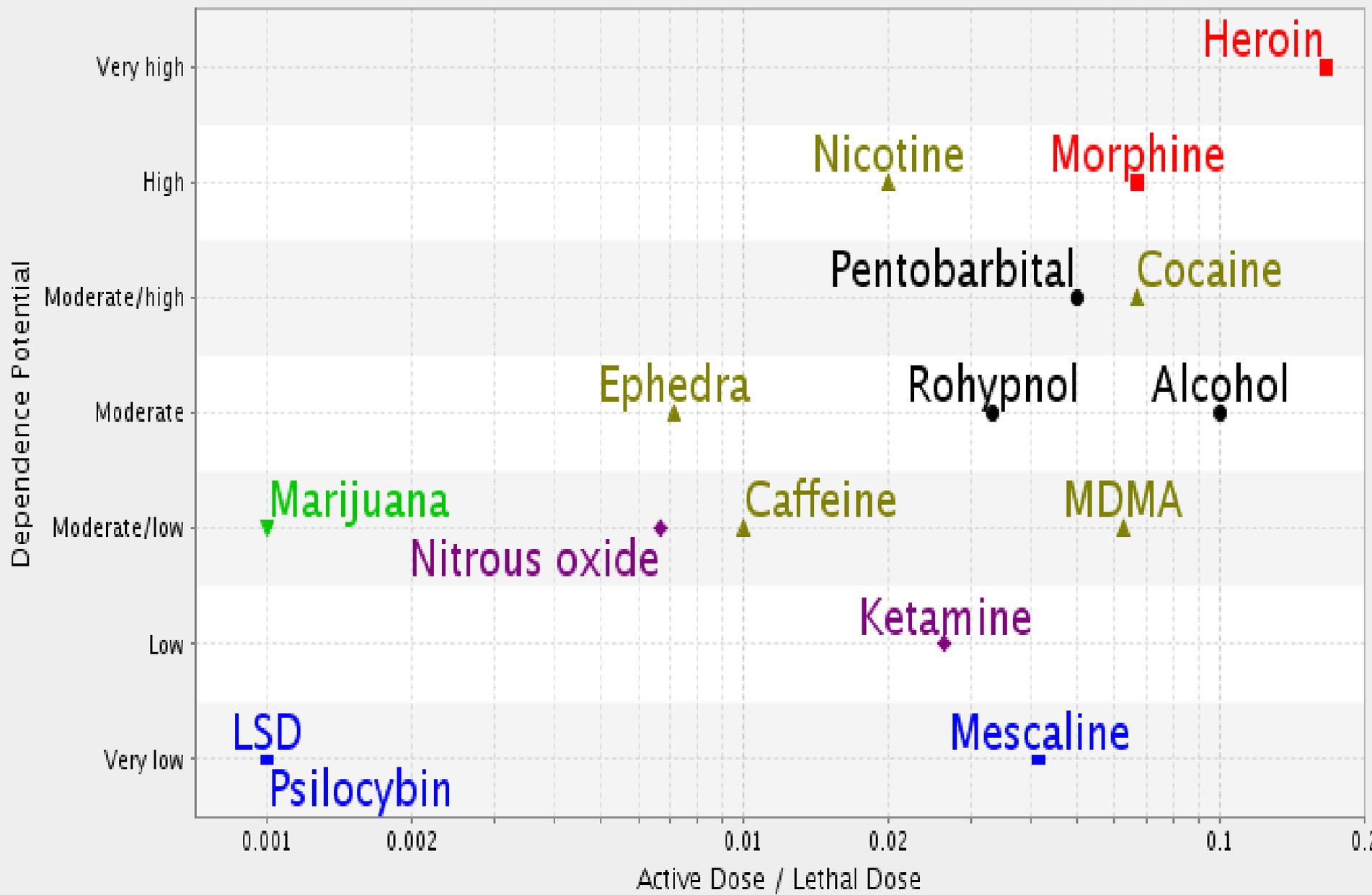
Is Marijuana Dangerous?

- Cannabis is a popular recreational drug around the world, only behind **alcohol**, **caffeine** and **tobacco**. In the United States alone, it is believed that over 100 million Americans have tried Cannabis, with 25 million Americans having used it within the past year.

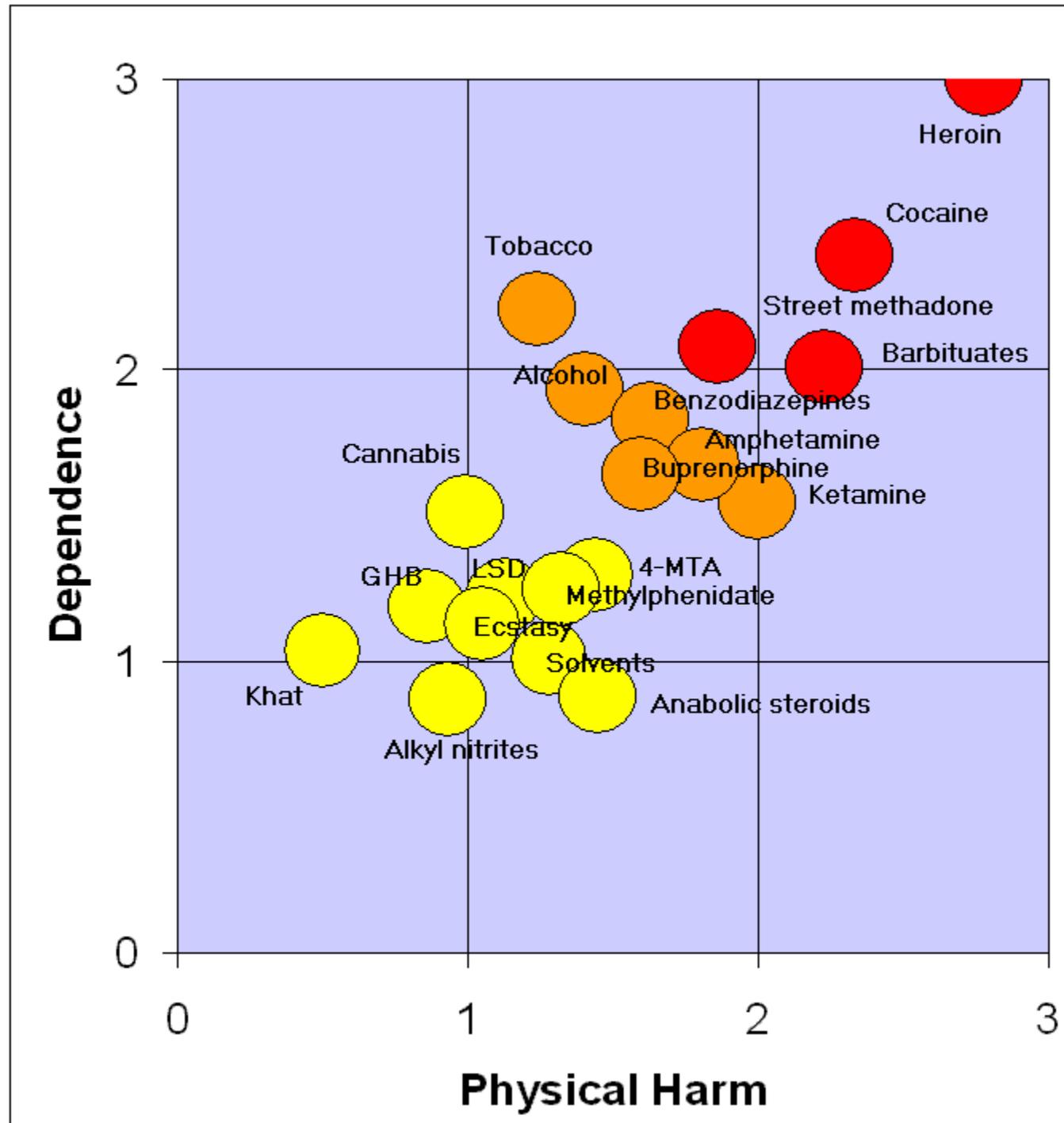
Effects

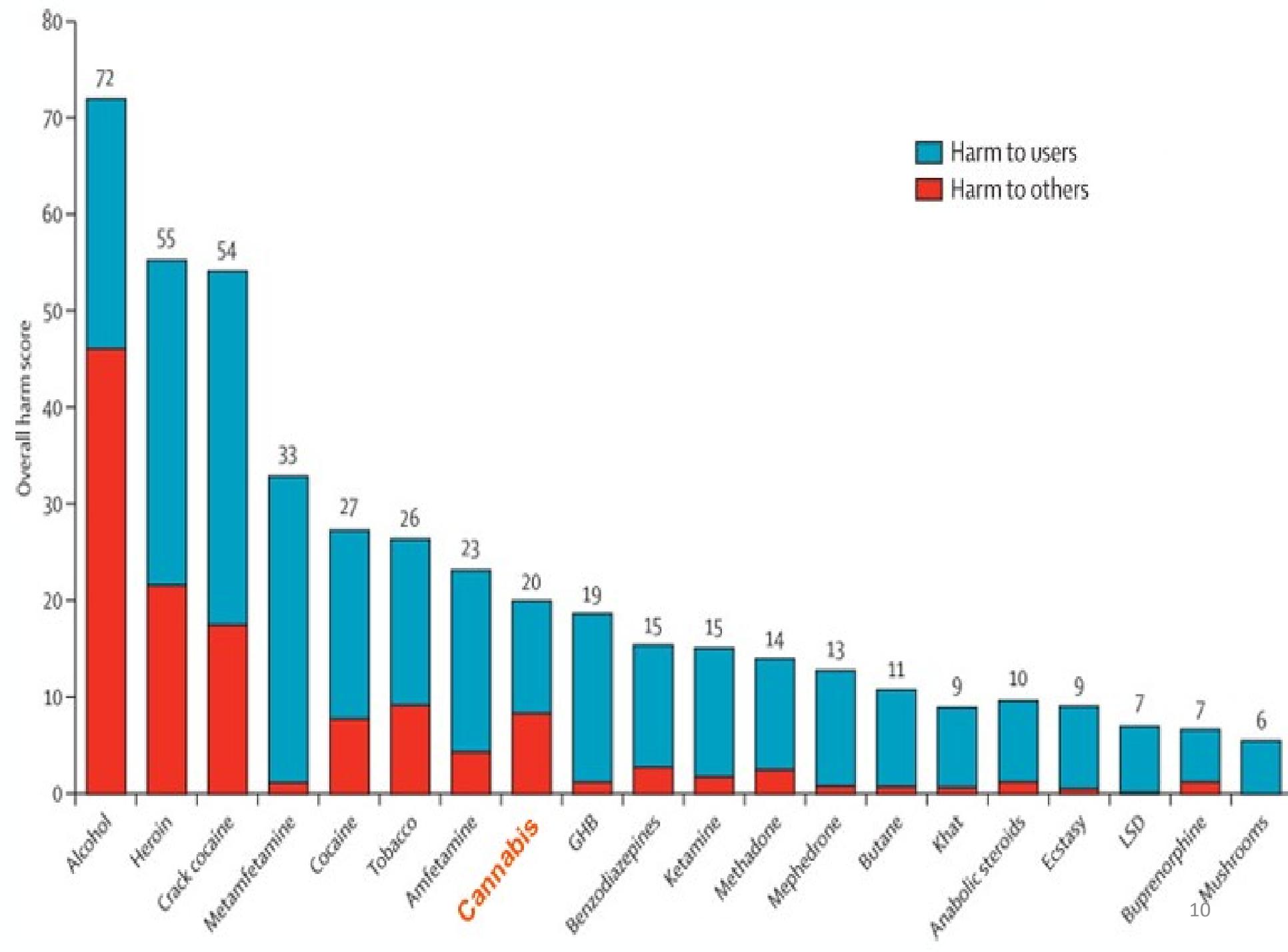
- Psychoactive effects - biphasic nature (two phases)
- A state of relaxation, and to a lesser degree, euphoria from **tetrahydrocannabinol**.
- Secondary effects, such as a facility for philosophical thinking, **introspection** and **metacognition**.
- Cases of **anxiety** and **paranoia**.
- Finally use can include an increase in heart rate and hunger.

Active/Lethal Dose Ratio and Dependence Potential of Psychoactive Drugs



- Narcotics
- Depressants
- ▲ Stimulants
- ◆ Anesthetics
- Hallucinogens
- ▼ Cannabis





Substance Abuse Deaths

- There are an estimated 79,000 alcohol-related deaths each year. An additional estimated 25,000 additional Alcohol related deaths were due to accidents.
- Cigarette smoking and exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke kills an estimated 443,000 people each year.

2008 or 2009 Causes of Death - Annual

- Poisonings 41,592
 - Unintended 76.4 % or 31,775*
 - 15.4% Suicides or 6,400*
- Drug Poisonings: Misuse of prescription drugs 36,500
 - Opioid analgesic pain relievers 40% or 14,800
 - MORPHINE, CODEINE, HYDROCODONE, OXYCODONE 9,100
 - METHADONE (SYNTHETIC OPIOID ANALGESIC) 4,900
 - SYNTHETIC OAP'S OTHER THAN METHADONE - I.E. FENTNYL, PROPOXYPHEND and other 2,300
 - Other drugs not OAP's 33.5%* or 12,400
 - Unknown or combinations 25% or 9,200
- * Estimated based on % or absolute data available.

Deaths from Drugs Illegal and Legal

Year 2009

- Cocaine 5,100
- Heroin 3,000
- Cannabis (Marijuana) 0

Four and one-half years Jan. 1997 to Jun. 2005

Marijuana primary 0, secondary 279 total 279

17 FDA approved primary 10,008 total 11,687

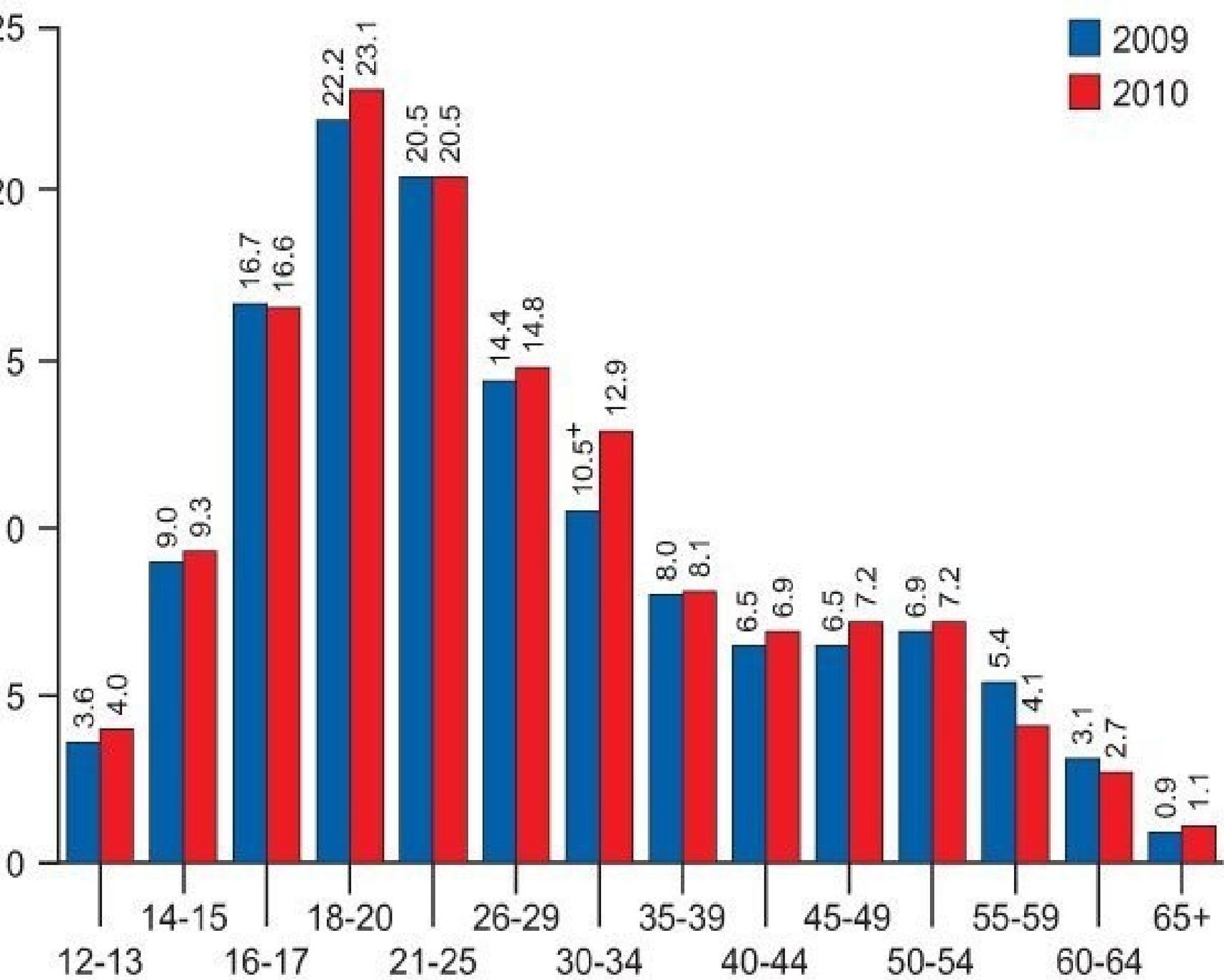
Viagra primary 2,254, secondary 40 total 2294

2009 Deaths

- All Causes 2,436,652
- Lack of Health Insurance 44,789
- Motor Vehicle Traffic Deaths 2008 were over 38,000 (less than for poisoning deaths)
- Firearms 31,224
- HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) 9,424

Illicit Drug Use USA

- 22.9 million in the past month (2010) NSDUH age 12 years and older, 8.9 percent of population.
- Marijuana 17.4 million, 1.5 cocaine, 1.2 hallucinogens, 7.0 prescription-type psychotherapeutic drugs nonmedically, .4 methamphetamine and .2 heroin users.
- Youth 12 to 17, 10.0 percent including marijuana at 8.2% of the population.



Alcohol and Tobacco

- Alcohol: Current (past month 2010) 51.8 percent or 131.3 million aged 12 and older.
- Binge 23.1 percent or 58.6 million and heavy drinking 6.7 percent or 16.9 million.
- Driving under the influence past year 11.4%.
- Tobacco use (past month 2010) 27.4 percent or 69.6 million; Age 16-17 15.4%.
- Cigarette smokers 23.0%, young adults not enrolled in college full time 39.9%.



LEGAL? PRO AND CON

Bag of Marijuana

Efficacy

- Prohibition: Alcohol use rates were 80 to 90 percent, tobacco 60 percent in the past. Now lower.
- Drug use in Sweden one-third European average with aggressive controls.
- Legalize: August Vollmer 1936. Drug addiction, like prostitution, and like liquor, is not a police problem. It is first and last a medical problem.
- Stephen Rolles 2010: Prohibition on production, supply and use has not only failed but is counterproductive. HIV, secondary criminal markets and networks, endemic violence.

Deterrence

- Prohibition: US **ONDCP**. Controls and prohibitions help to keep prices higher, and **higher prices help keep use rates relatively low.**
- Legalize: The **use of drugs by minors is much more difficult to control with drugs prohibited.**
- Dutch are among the lowest users of marijuana or cannabis in Europe, despite the Netherlands' policy on soft drugs being one of the most liberal in Europe.

Gateway Drug Theory

- Prohibition: The US Drug Enforcement Agency's "2008 Marijuana Sourcebook" argues that recent research supports the gateway hypothesis ...search for a better high.
- Legalize: Both alcohol and tobacco tend to precede cannabis use, and it is rare for those who use hard drugs to not have used alcohol or tobacco first.

Health

- Prohibition: Marijuana is far more powerful than it used to be.
- Illegal drugs already cost \$180 billion a year in health care. ...addictions curb individual freedom.
- Legalize: many illicit drugs pose comparatively fewer health dangers than certain legal drugs.
- The risks from cannabis use.. overstated. Cannot enforce quality control on products sold and manufactured illegally.
- Illegality may be dissuading research. Medical uses later discussion.

Economics

- Prohibition: DEA-- "compared to the social costs of drug abuse and addiction—whether in taxpayer dollars or in pain and suffering—government spending on drug control is minimal.
- Legalize: US drug prohibition \$350 million budget in 1971, by 2006 was a US\$ 30 billion. Only *direct* prohibition enforcement expenditures.
- Total cost of prohibition much higher. Cost of incarcerating 500,000 prisoners as a starter. Impacts on Mexico, Columbia, Afghanistan.

Crime, Terrorism and Social Order

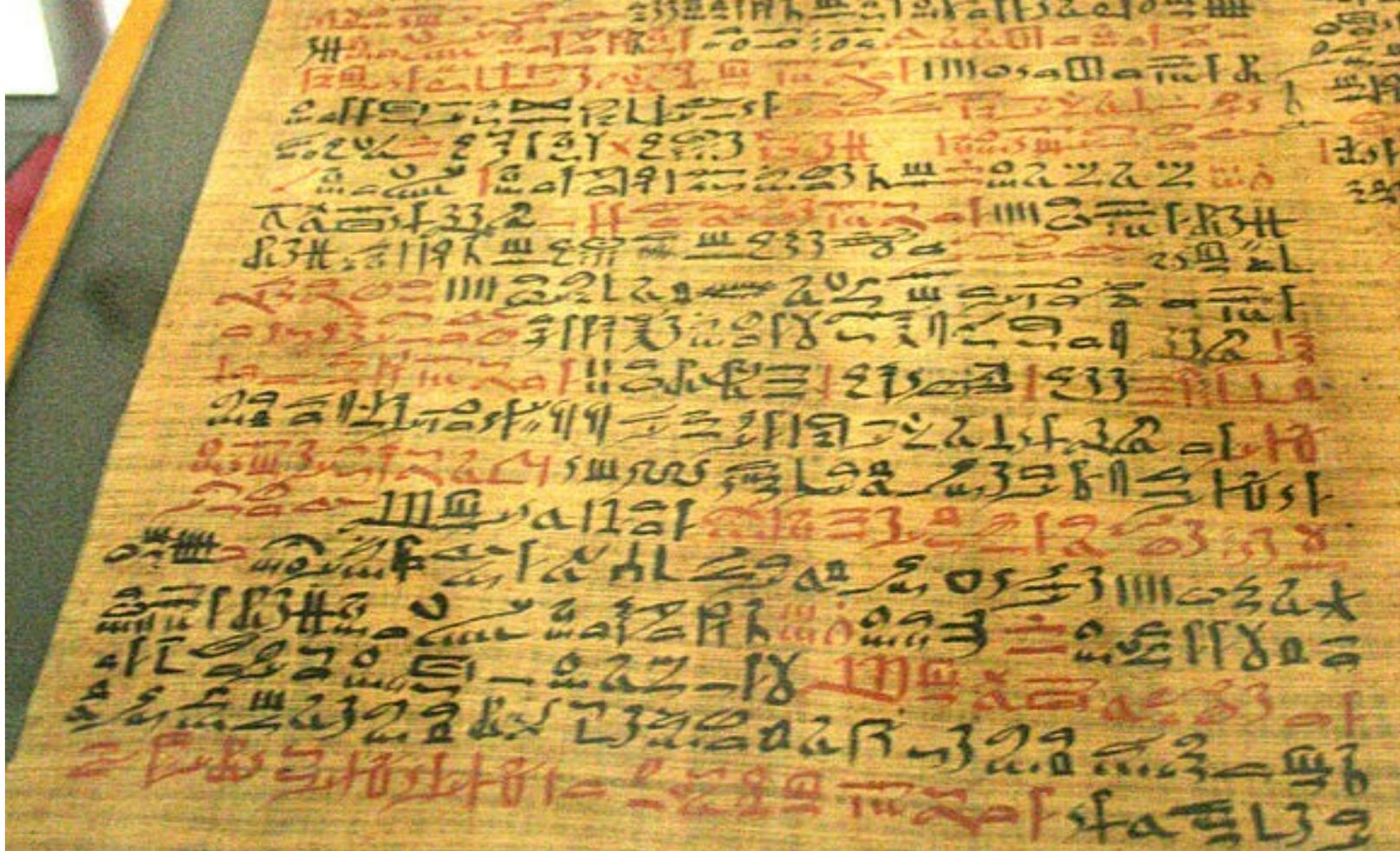
- Prohibition: Arguments, but mostly outdated and geared toward harder drugs other than marijuana. Also similar as those regarding alcohol use.
- Legalize: Will lower smuggling and drug cartel profits. Lower profits means less violence and fewer homicides. Less police and other corruption.
- Less stigma of convictions will help employment and educational attainment. Fewer adolescents in drug trade. Social order benefits.

Civil Rights

- Prohibition: no point in having criminal laws unless those caught breaking them will at least face prosecution.
- Legalize: Cognitive liberty. What persons do in private should not be regulated by the government as long as they do not harm others.
- Drug use is a victimless crime. The government does not forbid overeating. Compares with freedom of thought.

Politics

- Prohibition: sending out signals should be a consideration of drug policy.
- Reality "Talking sense about drug policy in today's climate of opinion can be political suicide."
- Legalize: "Criminal law is supposed to prevent crime, not 'send out' public health messages".



Medical Marijuana

The War on Drugs – The Result

- The US has 760 incarcerated persons per 100,000 citizens. Japan 63, Germany 90, Britain 153, Mexico 208, Brazil 242. In 1980 the US rate was 150.
- The US makes up 5 percent of the worlds population but we make up 25 percent of the worlds incarcerated persons.
- In 2009 alone, 1.66 million Americans were arrested on drug charges. And 4 out of 5 of those arrests were simply for possession including 750,000 for marijuana).

The War on Drugs the Result 2

- Over the past four decades, the US has spent more than \$1 trillion fighting the war on drugs
- The money spent on prisons has risen at six times the rate spent on higher education in the past 20 years.
- In California it costs \$8,667 per college student per year; a prisoners costs \$45,006 a year.
- The result is gruesome at every level.

Source: Time Magazine March 25, 2012 Fareed Zakaria, Editor-at-Large, CNN Host, etc.

Criminal Justice Today

- The United States has the highest documented incarceration rate in the world. At the end of 2009 it was 743 adults incarcerated per 100,000 population or **more than 1 percent of the adult population.**
- In total 7,225,800 adults were under correctional supervision (probation, parole, jail, or in prison—about **3.1% of adults in the U.S. Resident population.**
- **70% of prisoners(not jail inmates) are non-whites.**
- 61.5% of Virginia prisoners are African-American.
- **Over 20 percent or 243,000 African-Americans in Virginia are disenfranchised and cannot vote.**

Incarcerated Americans

1920 - 2008

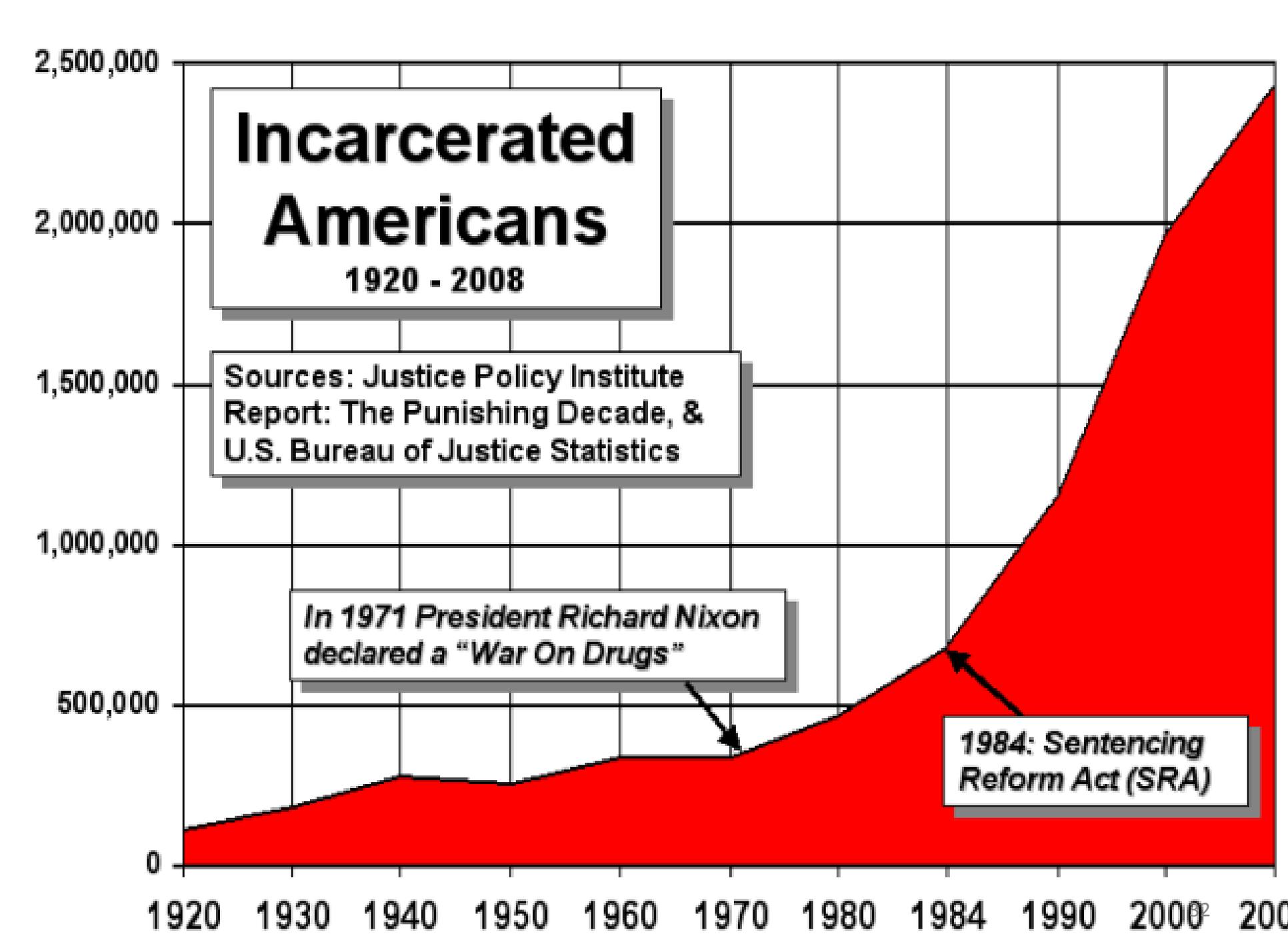
Sources: Justice Policy Institute
Report: The Punishing Decade, &
U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics

*In 1971 President Richard Nixon
declared a "War On Drugs"*

*1984: Sentencing
Reform Act (SRA)*

2,500,000
2,000,000
1,500,000
1,000,000
500,000
0

1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1984 1990 2000² 2008



The New Jim Crow

- A “War on Drugs”, a perfect outgrowth of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. 1968 election Richard Nixon and George Wallace “law and order” theme. Nixon called for a “war on drugs—public enemy number one.”
- Reagan 1980 condemned “welfare queens” and “criminal predators” (presumably race neutral); formally launched “War on Drugs”.

The New Jim Crow 2

- 1988 George Bush, Sr. decimated Dukakis with Willie Horton ad (escaped on work furlough, committed rape White Woman!). “1989 drugs most pressing problem facing nation.”
- Bill Clinton 1992 “I can be nicked a lot, but no one can say I am soft on crime.” “Three strikes, you’re out”, “tough on crime polices” resulted in the largest increases in federal and state prison inmates of any president in American history. 90% admitted to prison for drug offenses were black or Latino. **The New Jim Crow was born**

International Unintended Consequences

Impacts on producer, transit and consumer countries:

1. Growth of a 'huge criminal black market'.
2. Policy displacement to fund vast law enforcement effort.
3. Geographical displacement, production shifts location to avoid attention of law enforcement.

International Unintended Consequences 2

4. Substance displacement when previous choice of drug is difficult to obtain due to law enforcement.

5. The perception and treatment of drug users, who are stigmatized, marginalized and excluded.

What to Do?

- U.S. taxpayers have spent an estimated \$2.5 trillion on the "war on drugs" since former President Richard Nixon first declared it in 1971. With the U.S. federal government so far in debt, it is well overdue that this type of expenditure come under greater scrutiny. CNN June 2011.
- **The United States needs to get whole heartedly behind the recommendations of the Global Commission on Drug Policy.**

WAR ON DRUGS

- Report of the **Global Commission on Drug Policy**.
June 2011 www.globalcommissionondrugs.org
- **19 Commissioners** including **George P Schultz**, former Secretary of State, US (honorary chair), **Paul Volcker**, for Chairman of the United States Federal Reserve and the Economic Recovery Board and **Kofi Annan**, former Secretary General of the United Nations.

Global Report Principles

- **1. Drug policies must be based on solid empirical and scientific evidence. The primary measure of success should be the reduction of harm to the health, security and welfare of individuals and society.**
- **2. Drug policies must be based on human rights and public health principles. We should end the stigmatization and marginalization of people who use certain drugs and those involved in the lower levels of cultivation, production and distribution, and treat people dependent on drugs as patients, not criminals**

Global Report Principles Continued

3. The development and implementation of drug policies should be a global shared responsibility, but also needs to take into consideration diverse political, social and cultural realities.

4. Drug policies must be pursued in a comprehensive manner, involving families, schools, public health specialists, development practitioners and civil society leaders, in partnership with law enforcement agencies and other relevant governmental bodies.

RECOMMENDATION 1

- Break the taboo. Pursue an open debate and promote policies that effectively reduce consumption, and that prevent and reduce harms related to drug use and drug control policies. Increase investment in research and analysis into the impact of different policies and programs.
 - repressive strategies will not solve the drug problem, and the war on drugs has not, and cannot, be won.

RECOMMENDATIONS 2,3

- Replace the criminalization and punishment of people who use drugs with the offer of health and treatment services to those who need them.
- Encourage experimentation by governments with models of legal regulation of drugs (with cannabis, for example) that are designed to undermine the power of organized crime and safeguard the health and security of their citizens.

Recommendations 4,5,6

- Establish better metrics, indicators and goals to **measure progress.**
- **Challenge**, rather than reinforce, common **misconceptions about drug markets, drug use and drug dependence.**
- Countries that continue to invest mostly in a **law enforcement approach (despite the evidence)** should **focus their repressive actions on violent organized crime and drug traffickers**, in order to **reduce the harms associated with the illicit drug market.**

RECOMMENDATIONS 7,8,9

- Promote alternative sentences for small-scale and **first-time drug dealers.**
- Invest more resources in **evidence-based prevention, with a special focus on youth.**
- Offer a wide and easily accessible range of options for treatment and care for drug dependence with special attention to those most at risk, including those in prisons and other custodial settings.

RECOMMENDATIONS 10,11

- **The United Nations system must provide leadership in the reform of global drug policy.**
- **Act urgently: the war on drugs has failed, and policies need to change now.**

Getting drug policy right is not a matter for theoretical or intellectual debate – it is one of the key policy challenges of our time.